

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A food waste disposer comprising:  
an upper food conveying section including a housing to receive food waste;  
a motor section including a motor to impart rotational movement to a motor shaft;  
a central grinding section disposed between the food conveying section and the motor section, the food conveying section conveying food waste to the grinding section, the grinding section including a grinding plate; and  
an inlet portion having a water injection inlet, the water injection inlet including a nozzle ~~and~~ capable of forming a water baffle that extends substantially across ~~in~~ the inlet portion in a generally horizontal plane when the motor imparts rotational movement to the motor shaft.
2. (original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the inlet portion is integrally formed as part of the housing of the food conveying section.
3. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 1, wherein the inlet portion is separate but attached to the housing of the food conveying section.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 1, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a water valve connected between the water injection inlet and a pressurized water source.
6. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 5, wherein the water valve is controlled by a solenoid or actuator.
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) The food waster disposer of claim 1, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a ~~secondary~~ baffle made of a flexible material, the ~~secondary~~ baffle in fluid communication with the water injection inlet.

9. (currently amended) A food waster disposer comprising:  
a tubular food waste inlet portion;  
a motor section including a motor to impart rotational movement to a motor shaft;  
a central grinding section generally disposed between the tubular food waste inlet portion and the motor section, the tubular food waste inlet portion conveying food waste to the grinding section, the grinding section including a grinding plate; and  
a water injection inlet attached to the tubular food waste inlet portion and including a nozzle capable of forming a water baffle that extends substantially across the tubular food waste inlet portion in a generally horizontal plane, the water injection inlet in fluid communication with a water source when the motor imparts rotational movement to the motor shaft to form a water baffle in the tubular food waste inlet portion.
10. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 9, wherein the tubular food waste inlet portion is integrally formed as part of a housing of the food waste disposer.
11. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 9, wherein the tubular food waste inlet portion is separate but attached to a housing of the food waste disposer, the tubular food waste inlet portion made of a flexible material.
12. (canceled)
13. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 9, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a water valve connected between the water injection inlet and the water source.
14. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 13, wherein the water valve is controlled by a solenoid or actuator.
15. (canceled)

16. (original) The food waster disposer of claim 9, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a ~~secondary~~ baffle made of a flexible material, the ~~secondary~~ baffle in fluid communication with the water injection inlet.

17. (previously presented) A method of reducing noise in a food waste disposer, the food waste disposer having a motor section, a grinding section, and an inlet portion, the inlet portion having a water injection inlet having a nozzle capable of creating a water baffle inside the inlet portion, the method comprising the steps of:

activating a motor in the motor section to provide rotational movement to a grinding mechanism in the grinding section; and

injecting water through the water injection inlet to create a water baffle inside the inlet portion.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the activating and injecting steps are performed simultaneously.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the water baffle extends substantially across the inlet portion in a generally horizontal plane.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the water injection inlet has a nozzle.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a ~~secondary~~ baffle made of a flexible material, the ~~secondary~~ baffle in fluid communication with the water injection inlet.

22. (currently amended) A food waste disposer comprising:

an upper food conveying section including a housing to receive food waste;

a motor section including a motor to impart rotational movement to a motor shaft;

a central grinding section disposed between the food conveying section and the motor section, the food conveying section conveying food waste to the grinding section, the grinding section including a grinding plate;

an inlet portion having a water injection inlet; and

a ~~secondary~~ baffle made of a flexible material, the ~~secondary~~ baffle in fluid communication with the water injection inlet, the water injection inlet capable of forming a water baffle on the ~~secondary~~ baffle when the motor imparts rotational movement to the motor shaft.

23. (previously presented) The food waste disposer of claim 22, wherein the inlet portion is integrally formed as part of the housing of the food conveying section.

24. (previously presented) The food waster disposer of claim 22, wherein the inlet portion is separate but attached to the housing of the food conveying section.

25. (previously presented) The food waster disposer of claim 22, wherein the food waste disposer further includes a water valve connected between the water injection inlet and a pressurized water source.

26. (previously presented) The food waster disposer of claim 25, wherein the water valve is controlled by a solenoid or actuator.

27. (previously presented) The food waster disposer of claim 22, wherein the water injection inlet includes a nozzle.

28. (currently amended) A method of reducing noise in a food waste disposer, the food waste disposer having a motor section, a grinding section, an inlet portion having a water injection inlet, and a ~~secondary~~ baffle made of a flexible material, the ~~secondary~~ baffle in fluid communication with the water injection inlet, the method comprising the steps of:

activating a motor in the motor section to provide rotational movement to a grinding mechanism in the grinding section; and

injecting water through the water injection inlet to create a water baffle on the ~~secondary~~ baffle.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the activating and injecting steps are performed simultaneously.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the water baffle extends substantially across the inlet portion in a generally horizontal plane.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the water injection inlet has a nozzle.